



Atomic bomb destruction in Nagasaki.

Nagasaki to Kure

Early in December, TOLEDO began the longest tour out of Yokosuka, a two-and-one-half week jaunt to Nagasaki, Sasebo, and Fukuoka in the southernmost of the main Japanese islands, Kyushu, then through the narrow and treacherous Strait of Shimoneseiki to Kure on the southern tip of Honshu on the "inland sea." From Kure we returned to Yokosuka for the Christmas holidays.

At Nagasaki, the ship entered a well-protected, lovely harbor, circled almost completely by high rolling hills. Here was the home of Cho-Cho-San, the famous *Madame Butterfly* of the Puccini opera; here was the Ouri Church, one of the most impressive of the whole East; here for the sightseer were shops, quaint little streets, the Takarazuka dance hall; here, too, was the site of the first atom bomb dropped on a war-mad Japan in 1945. Tours covered all these and more.

A short run around the western tip of Kyushu brought us to Sasebo, and for the first time in Japan we "dropped the hook"—anchoring in the ship-filled harbor for a short weekend stay that gave us a chance to meet the Army stationed there and to see the sights of a rather out-of-the-way Japanese port, and the small Fleet Activities Navy unit there. Fukuoka, only part of a day's sailing to the north, offered another chapter in the story of our Nippon wanderings. The challenge of Shimoneseiki lay ahead—we set the special sea details and began to creep through.

The landing at Fleet Activities, Sasebo. Shimoneseiki Strait separatnig Honshu and Kyushu.

